

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF       )  
CHESAPEAKE UTILITIES CORPORATION       )  
FOR APPROVAL OF A CHANGE IN ITS       )     PSC DOCKET NO. 17-1021  
GAS SALES SERVICE RATES ("GSR")       )  
TO BE EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2017       )  
(FILED SEPTEMBER 1, 2017)       )

**ORDER NO. 9153**

**AND NOW**, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2017, the Delaware Public Service Commission ("Commission") determines and orders the following:

**WHEREAS**, on September 1, 2017, Chesapeake Utilities Corporation ("Chesapeake" or "the Company") filed with the Commission the above-captioned application (the "Application") seeking approval to change its Gas Sales Service Rates ("GSR") effective for usage on or after November 1, 2017, as follows: (1) increase the Company's current GSR rate from \$0.818 per Ccf to \$1.023 per Ccf for customers served under rate schedules RS-1, ERS-1, RS-2, ERS-2, GS, EGS, MVS, EMVS, and LVS; (2) increase the Company's current GSR rate from \$0.360 per Ccf to \$0.468 per Ccf for customers served under rate schedules GLR and GLO; (3) increase the Company's current GSR rate from \$0.628 per Ccf to \$0.782 per Ccf for customers served under rate schedule HLFS; (4) increase the Company's firm balancing rate for transportation customers served under rate schedule GS and EGS from \$0.076 per Ccf to \$0.093 per Ccf; (5) increase the Company's firm balancing rate for transportation customers served under rate schedule MVS and EMVS from \$0.100 per Ccf to \$0.111 per Ccf; (6) decrease the Company's firm balancing rate for transportation customers served under rate schedule LVS from \$0.089 per Ccf to \$0.084 per Ccf; (7) decrease the Company's

firm balancing rate for transportation customers served under rate schedule HLFS from \$0.017 per Ccf to \$0.014 per Ccf; and (8) decrease the Company's interruptible balancing rate for transportation customers served under rate schedule ITS from \$0.012 per Ccf to \$0.011 per Ccf; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 28, 2017, the Commission issued Order No. 9119 after determining, pursuant to 26 *Del. C.* §§304 and 306, that the proposed GSR changes should be permitted to become effective for usage on and after November 1, 2017, subject to refund and pending the Commission's further review and final decision; and

**WHEREAS**, Order No. 9119 further designated R. Campbell Hay as the Hearing Examiner for this proceeding pursuant to 26 *Del. C.* §502 and 29 *Del. C.* ch. 101, and more specifically delegated Hearing Examiner Hay the ability to: (1) grant or deny petitions to intervene; (2) develop a complete record; and (3) prepare a proposed order for the Commission's consideration with his recommendations based upon conclusions of law and the evidence presented; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission also ordered that it may rescind the designation of a Hearing Examiner for this proceeding if no petitions to intervene, material objections, or written comments raising significant issues were received prior to the established intervention and comment deadline of October 31, 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, the Delaware Division of the Public Advocate ("DPA") filed its Statutory Notice of Intervention on October 16, 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, to date the Commission has not received any other petitions to intervene nor any comments raising significant issues

from any person or entity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Company, the Commission Staff and the DPA have agreed that, given the nature of this proceeding and that no person or entity filed comments or sought intervention, it is more productive and administratively efficient to consider this matter at a duly noticed evidentiary hearing at a future regularly-scheduled Commission meeting;

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED BY THE AFFIRMATIVE  
VOTE OF NOT FEWER THAN THREE COMMISSIONERS:**

1. The Commission rescinds the designation of R. Campbell Hay as the Hearing Examiner for this docket.

2. The Commission will consider whether or not to approve the proposed changes to the GSR rates, firm and interruptible balancing rates, and the accompanying proposed tariff revisions set forth in the Application, after a duly noticed evidentiary hearing at a future regularly-scheduled Commission meeting.

3. Chesapeake agrees that if requested to do so by the Public Service Commission Staff and/or the Division of the Public Advocate, it will make a separate regulatory filing in a new docket if significant issues are raised as this proceeding advances.

4. The Commission reserves the jurisdiction and authority to enter such further Orders in this matter as may be deemed necessary or proper.

**BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:**

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Chair

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Commissioner

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Commissioner

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Commissioner

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Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Secretary